



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels
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COMMISSION DECISION

of

**on the financing of humanitarian Actions in the Central African Republic from the
general budget of the European Communities**

(ECHO/CAF/BUD/2009/01000)

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THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid ¹, and in particular Article 2 and Article 15(2) thereof;

Whereas:

- (1) The humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) has seen a marked deterioration in 2009 with the small-scale conflicts shifting from the North-west to the North-centre-east of the country and the incursions of the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the South-east;
- (2) Renewed insecurity has caused new internal displacement and increased the vulnerability of the local population. The number of IDPs is now estimated at 123,000 and some 4,200 refugees from Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo settled in the eastern provinces. In addition, there are some 137,000 Central African refugees in southern Chad and Cameroon;
- (3) The nutritional status of the most vulnerable population groups (particularly children) reached critical levels. Rapid assessments conducted in three prefectures of the south-west in July 2009 revealed that 16% of children aged under 5 are acutely malnourished and 6.6% are severely acutely malnourished as a consequence of the global financial crisis which affected, in particular, the mining sector;
- (4) To reach populations in need, humanitarian aid should be channelled through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and International Organisations including United Nations (UN) agencies. Therefore the European Commission should implement the budget by direct centralized management or by joint management;
- (5) An assessment of the humanitarian situation leads to the conclusion that humanitarian aid Actions should be financed by the Community for a period of 12 months;
- (6) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 2,000,000 from budget article 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to complement humanitarian assistance already provided to over approx. 200,000 displaced persons and vulnerable local population, taking into account the available budget, other donors'

¹ 1- OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

contributions and other factors. The activities covered by this Decision may be financed in full in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation;

- (7) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002³, and Article 15 of the internal rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Communities⁴;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of EUR 2,000,000 for the financing of humanitarian Actions in Central African Republic from budget article 23.02.01 of the 2009 general budget of the European Communities.

2. In accordance with Article 2 of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the principal objective of this Decision is to provide humanitarian assistance to the populations affected by the crisis in the Central African Republic. The humanitarian Actions shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:

- To provide relief to improve the humanitarian situation of refugees, displaced persons and other vulnerable segments of the population affected by the crisis through multi-sectoral assistance

The full amount of this Decision is allocated to this specific objective.

Article 2

1. The period for the implementation of the Actions financed under this Decision shall start on 1 October 2009 and shall run for 12 months. Eligible expenditure shall be committed during the implementing period of the Decision.

2. If the implementation of individual actions is suspended owing to force majeure or other exceptional circumstances, the period of suspension shall not be taken into account in the implementing period of the Decision in respect of the Action suspended.

3. In accordance with the contractual provisions ruling the Agreements financed under this Decision, the Commission may consider eligible those costs arising and incurred after the end of the implementing period of the Action which are necessary for its winding-up.

4. The Authorising Officer may, where this is justified by the humanitarian situation, extend the duration of the Decision for a maximum of 6 months provided that the total duration of the Decision does not exceed 18 months, in accordance with Article 90.4 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation.

² 2- OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

³ 3- OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, , p.1.

⁴ 4- Commission Decision of 5.3.2008, C/2008/773

Article 3

1. In accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules and having regard to the urgency of the Action, the availability of other donors and other relevant operational circumstances, funds under this Decision may finance humanitarian Actions in full.

2. Actions supported by this Decision will be implemented either by Non-profit-making organisations which fulfil the eligibility and suitability criteria established in Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 or by International organisations.

3. The Commission shall implement the budget:

* either by direct centralised management, with Non-governmental Organisations;

* or by joint management with international organisations that are signatories to the Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) or the EC/UN Financial Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) and which were subject to the four pillar assessment in line with Article 53d of the Financial Regulation

Article 4

This Decision will take effect on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
Member of the Commission



Humanitarian Aid Decision
23 02 01

Title: Commission Decision on the financing of humanitarian Actions in the Central African Republic from the general budget of the European Communities

Description: Assistance to vulnerable groups affected by the crisis in the Central African Republic

Location of Action: Central African Republic

Amount of Decision: EUR 2,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/CAF/BUD/2009/01000

Supporting Document

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale :

Despite increased stability in 2008, 2009 has seen a marked deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic (CAR). The small-scale conflicts have shifted from the North-west to the North-centre-east of the country, adding to the complexity of dealing with a multiplicity of warring parties. Besides government forces, armed groups include rebels, secessionist rebel groups, and village self-defence committees as well as Central African, Sudanese and Chadian road bandits. In addition, alleged LRA¹ elements chased by Ugandan army troops have entered the CAR territory in July. Fear of retaliation actions and formerly experienced kidnappings and indiscriminate killings has caused the displacement of an estimated 3,000 persons (UNHCR). The arrival of some 1,400 refugees fleeing the LRA violence in DRC² was also recorded.

Current figures estimate that 1,000,000 people (almost a quarter of the population) in CAR are directly or indirectly affected by conflict, banditry, violence or displacements³. 123,000 are internally displaced and 137,000 have fled into neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Sudan. In return, CAR hosts some 4200 refugees from Sudan and DRC.

¹ (Ugandan) Lord's Resistance Army

² Democratic Republic of Congo

³ Mid-Year Review CAP 2009

The ongoing global financial crisis has particularly hit the forest and mining regions of CAR by affecting the mining sector⁴. Preliminary reports link the loss of income with the rising rates of malnutrition among children. Rapid assessments conducted in 3 Prefectures in the South-west⁵ in July 2009 revealed that 16% of children aged under 5 are acutely malnourished and 6.6% are severely acutely malnourished⁶, far above the emergency thresholds of 15% for global acute malnutrition and 2% for severe acute malnutrition.

The country is thus suffering from a multifaceted crisis where ongoing waves of violence combine with extreme poverty, poor access to basic services and lack of economic and social opportunities as well as with the consequences of the global financial crisis. The lives of the most vulnerable, notably women and children, in these circumstances are severely impacted.

The increasingly complex nature of this crisis, characterized by a faltering peace process, continued renewed violence, a foundering economy in tandem with a serious decline in humanitarian assistance funding so far this year⁷, is threatening the response capacity of aid organisations with the risk to undermine the evolution of an effective response to CAR's widespread needs.

1.2. - Identified needs :

- *Water and sanitation*

Access to water in general and safe drinking water in particular is inadequate with only 31.5% in urban and 26% in rural areas having access to potable water. UNICEF estimates only 10% of the population have access to family latrines. Distance to water and health facilities as well as precarious living conditions of displacement in the bush have further limited access to safe water and practice of good hygiene practices, resulting in widespread water borne diseases.

- *Health*

The state of the health system (infrastructure and institutional capacity) is weak and in general unable to respond to the most basic needs in terms of health services. The latest available national compiled data (maternal mortality rate: 1,355/100,000⁸, children under 5 mortality rate: 172/1,000⁹) are illustrative of emergency indicators and needs deriving from a protracted structural crisis aggravated by the conflict and population displacement.

⁴ drop of 60% of wood production and 80% of diamond production

⁵ Mambéré Kadei, Sangha Mbaéré and Lobaye (Boda)

⁶ UNICEF

⁷ the level of funding has dramatically dropped from a 91.1% funded CAP in 2008 to a 51% of the 97.3 million revised CAP in 2009 - Mid-Year Review CAP 2009

⁸ UNDP

⁹ UNICEF

- *Nutrition - Food aid/food security*

Approximately 62% of Central Africans live in rural areas, and agriculture is the main source of income for households. On average, 80% of household resources are used for meeting the food needs. However, a decade of conflict and violence, looting, destruction of food reserves, crop diseases and a lack of technical support for producers have caused a sharp drop in agricultural production.

Populations in mining areas have often abandoned agricultural activities and sustained their livelihood through mining-related work. The global economic crisis has hit the mining regions, affecting global income of households and prices on the market, leading to children malnutrition alerts. Rapid assessments conducted in the South-west in July 2009 revealed that 16% of children aged under 5 are acutely malnourished and 6.6% are severely acutely malnourished.

- *Shelter and non-food items*

Many displaced people live in precarious conditions with inadequate shelter and lacking basic household items. To mitigate their suffering, humanitarian agencies distributed plastic sheeting for emergency shelter and basic household items to people in need. Most of these are displaced people, but also refugees and spontaneous returnees who require help with the first steps in rebuilding their lives. Yet, as displacements are likely to continue in 2010 and as many non-food items have a limited lifespan, new distributions will be necessary in 2010.

- *Transport and logistics*

A major obstacle to the identification of needs and delivery of humanitarian aid is access. Continued insecurity as well as the poor state of roads, especially during the rainy season, makes working conditions and movements difficult and time-consuming. The rehabilitation of the major road axes and key bridges would greatly benefit the humanitarian community which will have an improved access to isolated areas.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned :

This Decision will endeavour to target approximately 150,000 IDPs, refugees, returnees and local vulnerable populations. This includes, inter alia:

- 122,600 IDPs victims of clashes between the national army and other armed groups, as well as due to increased banditry and possibly populations of the southeast victims of exactions of LRA;
- 4,200 refugees from Darfur and DRC in the eastern provinces;
- returnees and
- other vulnerable population, notably approx. 7,000 children affected by severe acute malnutrition;

Geographical focus: DG ECHO¹⁰ will focus its assistance on prefectures which have been and are still the areas most affected by insecurity in the northern prefectures and

¹⁰ Directorate-General for humanitarian aid - ECHO

the southeast, if needed. However, assistance may be provided to other parts of the country in case of urgent emergency response, wherever humanitarian indicators call for assistance, e.g. the southern prefectures affected by high malnutrition rates.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

As of this day insecurity is still a problem in CAR, with on-going harassment of beneficiary populations and targeting of humanitarian agencies including the recent killing of 3 ICRC and COOPI local aid workers¹¹ Other factors affecting the humanitarian space and access include the growing frustration of ex-combatants with the stagnating DDR¹² process, the inadequate means deployed by international peace-keeping forces and the Presidential elections planned in spring 2010. The latter could lead to increased political instability and possible turmoil in case of delay, cancelling or contest of the electoral process. The unpredictable contexts of the neighbouring countries (Uganda, DRC, Chad and Sudan) may further deteriorate the security situation should an inflow of refugees or incursions of foreign armed groups continue or potentially increase. In addition to the insecurity, the climatic conditions, the difficult terrain and the lack of communications infrastructure could hamper the delivery of humanitarian aid, cause delays and increase costs.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives :

Principal objective: To provide humanitarian assistance to the populations affected by the crisis in the Central African Republic

Specific objective:

To provide relief to improve the humanitarian situation of refugees, displaced persons and other vulnerable segments of the population affected by the crisis through multi-sectoral assistance

2.2. - Components :

The activities outlined below are proposed in the context of the identified needs outlined in section 1.2 (*Needs*). Some components may also include financial support to victims (such as cash for work) in order to reduce their vulnerability and to help them to regain a minimum of self-sufficiency.

Given the complexity and volatility of the situation, it may be necessary to finance urgent actions in the framework of this decision.

a) Water and sanitation.

To reduce morbidity and mortality resulting from water-related diseases among displaced and other vulnerable people, to provide improved access to safe water and to basic sanitation facilities as well as promotion of best hygiene and environmental health practises. This may entail, amongst others: the provision of temporary substitutive systems, the creation of new water sources and the protection or repair of existing water points, the distribution of water storage containers, the construction or repair of latrines, mass education/sensitization campaign, etc.;

¹¹ In May and September 2009 respectively

¹² Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)

b) Health services.

The vulnerable population will be provided with equitable access to a minimum package of basic healthcare, with special emphasis on women and children. This will include: the basic rehabilitation of health centers where necessary; the provision of drugs and equipment and incentives to clinic health staff. Specific support will be provided for pregnant women to access antenatal care and assisted delivery services.

c) Specialised Nutrition programmes. Food aid/food security, Seeds and Tools distribution.

Specialised nutrition programmes aiming at building national capacity, strengthening therapeutic feeding and ambulatory centres, setting up a nutrition surveillance system and providing therapeutic inputs will be supported.

To strengthen the fragile food security situation the distribution of basic inputs such as seeds, tools, outreach services, seeds protection food rations, quick response to immediate and urgent food needs for people newly displaced, income-generating activities, etc. may be supported.

d) Non-food Items (Household kits) and Shelter.

To ensure basic living conditions for IDPs and to assist people who are returning to their villages as well as the refugees, essential non-food items (NFIs) will be distributed. Kits of NFIs will include tarpaulins, jerry cans, soap, mats, mosquito nets, kitchen sets and clothing depending on the assessed needs.

Where temporary shelter is required or conditions for return are met, returnees will be assisted by the provision of basic building materials and tool kits.

e) Logistic support.

Minor road repairs, through labour intensive cash for work programmes, may be needed not only for the delivery of aid but also to re-establish minimum access for beneficiaries to services and markets.

3 - Duration expected for Actions in the proposed Decision:

The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be 12 months.

Humanitarian Actions funded by this Decision must be implemented within this period.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 October 2009.

Start Date : 1 October 2009

If the implementation of the Actions envisaged in this Decision is suspended due to *force majeure* or any comparable circumstance, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the humanitarian aid Actions.

Depending on the evolution of the situation in the field, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the Agreements signed with the implementing humanitarian organisations where the suspension of activities is for a period of more than one third of the total planned duration of the Action. In this respect, the procedure established in the general conditions of the specific agreement will be applied.

5 - Overview of donors' contributions

Donors in CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		DG ECHO	1,800,000		
Belgium	500,000	Other services			
Bulgaria					
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland	2,400,000				
France	1,262,000				
Germany	900,000				
Greece	70,000				
Hungary					
Ireland	2,734,256				
Italy					
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg					
Malta					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain	372,000				
Sweden	2,239,802				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	10,478,058	Subtotal	1,800,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	12,278,058		

Dated : 7 October 2009

(*) Source : DG ECHO 14 Points reporting for Members States. <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hac>
Empty cells means either no information is available or no contribution.

6 - Amount of Decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the Decision: EUR 2,000,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: <i>To provide humanitarian assistance to the populations affected by the crisis in the Central African Republic</i>				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners¹³
Specific objective 1: To provide relief to improve the humanitarian situation of refugees, displaced persons and other vulnerable segments of the population affected by the crisis through multi-sectoral assistance	2,000,000	Central African Republic with special focus on the, northern part of the country	Provision of nutritional, food and non-food items, seeds and tools, water and sanitation, health shelter assistance and strategic road repairs in order to facilitate the movement of displaced people and humanitarian assistance	<u>Direct centralised management</u> - ACF - FRA - ACTED - AMI - FRA - MSF - ESP - MSF – FRA - PU – FRA - SOLIDARITES <u>Joint management</u> - UNICEF
TOTAL:	2,000,000			

¹³ ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM, (FR), AGENCE D'AIDE A LA COOPERATION TECHNIQUE ET AU DEVELOPPEMENT, (FR), AIDE MEDICALE INTERNATIONALE, (FR), MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES (F), MEDICOS SIN FRONTERAS, (E), PREMIERE URGENCE, (FR), SOLIDARITES, (FR), UNICEF

7 - Evaluation

Under article 18 of Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid the Commission is required to "regularly assess humanitarian aid Actions financed by the Community in order to establish whether they have achieved their objectives and to produce guidelines for improving the effectiveness of subsequent Actions." These evaluations are structured and organised in overarching and cross cutting issues forming part of DG ECHO's Annual Strategy such as child-related issues, the security of relief workers, respect for human rights, gender. Each year, an indicative Evaluation Programme is established after a consultative process. This programme is flexible and can be adapted to include evaluations not foreseen in the initial programme, in response to particular events or changing circumstances. More information can be obtained at:

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/evaluation/introduction_en.htm.

8. Management issues

Humanitarian aid Actions funded by the Commission are implemented by NGOs and the Red Cross National Societies on the basis of Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA), by Specialised Agencies of the Member States and by United Nations agencies based on the EC/UN Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) in conformity with Article 163 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation. These Framework agreements define the criteria for attributing grant agreements and financing agreements in accordance with Article 90 of the Implementing Rules and may be found at http://ec.europa.eu/echo/about/actors/partners_en.htm.

For NGOs, Specialised Agencies of the Member States, Red Cross National Societies and International Organisations not complying with the requirements set up in the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities for joint management, actions will be managed by direct centralised management.

For International Organisations identified as potential partners for implementing the Decision, actions will be managed under joint management.

Individual grants are awarded on the basis of the criteria enumerated in Article 7.2 of the Humanitarian Aid Regulation, such as the technical and financial capacity, readiness and experience, and results of previous interventions.